

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CPR-01 SS-15 NSC-05 PRS-01

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R 122132Z AUG 75

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1330

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3627

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UNGA CI US

SUBJ: CALL BY GOC PRESS SPOKESMAN

REF: SANTIAGO 5362

1. FEDERICO WILLOUGHBY, GOC PRESS SPOKESMAN AND PRESIDENT PINOCHET'S PRIVATE SECRETARY, CALLED ON AMB WHITE ON AUG 11. ALTHOUGH WILLOUGHBY IS PRIMARILY VISITING THE US TO SEEK MEDICAL CONSULTATIONS FOR A SERIOUS KIDNEY AILMENT, HE IS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE VISIT TO SAMPLE AMERICAN OPINION CONCERNING CHILE AND IS SEEKING GUIDANCE ABOUT HOW CHILE CAN IMPROVE HER IMAGE.

2. CHILE'S IMAGE IN THE US: WILLOUGHBY SAID THAT AS A RESULT OF PRIMARILY NON-GOVERNMENT CONTACTS IN THE STATES, HE REALIZES THAT THE IMAGE OF CHILE IN THE US IS MUCH WORSE THAN THE GOC BELIEVES. HE EMPHASIZED THAT PRES PINOCHET HAD PERSONALLY INSTRUCTED HIM TO GET A FEEL FOR HOW AMERICANS REGARD CHILE.

3. US ELECTIONS: WILLOUGHBY ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE DANGER THAT CHILE WOULD BECOME AN ISSUE IN THE US PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN, POSSIBLY FURTHER UNDERMINING US SUPPORT FOR CHILE.

4. UNITED NATIONS: HE SAID THAT THIS YEAR WOULD BE THE MOST "AGGRESSIVE AND DANGEROUS" YEAR FOR CHILE IN THE UN. WILLOUGHBY EMPHASIZED HIS HOPE THAT CHILE WOULD DEPLOY A MORE SOPHISTICATED,  
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ARTICULATE AND LESS OUTSPOKEN UNGA TEAM THIS YEAR. WILLOUGHBY

VOLUNTEERED THAT CHILE'S RECORD ON HUMAN RIGHTS WAS VERY HARD TO DEFEND.

5. UNHRC: WILLOUGHBY EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT THE GOC MADE A MISTAKE WHEN IT INITIALLY AGREED TO THE VISIT OF THE UNHRC. HE ADMITTED THAT THE GOC HAD BEEN "NEGLIGENT" IN SOME "INTERNAL MATTERS" WHICH THE UNHRC MIGHT HAVE FOCUSSED ON. WHILE WILLOUGHBY CHARACTERIZED EARLIER INVESTIGATIVE COMMISSIONS AS FRONT GROUPS, HE SAID THAT A NEGATIVE REPORT FROM THE PRESTIGIOUS UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION WOULD HAVE HAD SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR CHILE.

6. GOC SEEKING ADVICE: WILLOUGHBY ASKED AMB WHITE FOR HER ADVICE ABOUT NEW INITIATIVES WHICH THE GOC MIGHT TAKE TO IMPROVE ITS IMAGE. HE SAID HE WOULD ALSO CALL UPON CHILEAN COUNTRY DIRECTOR FIMBRES IN WASHINGTON. AMB WHITE EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND CONGRESS AND SUGGESTED THAT THE MOST EFFECTIVE STEPS WHICH THE GOC COULD TAKE WOULD BE TO IMPROVE THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION AND POSSIBLY RESCHEDULE THE UNHRC VISIT. THE LATTER WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE, WILLOUGHBY SAID, REFERRING TO PINOCHET'S RECENT STATEMENT ABOUT THE UNHRC.

7. INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS: WILLOUGHBY SAID THAT IN HIS OPINION PRESIDENT PINOCHET ENJOYS THE "MASSIVE" SUPPORT OF THE CHILEAN PEOPLE AND THAT IN THE EVENT OF AN ELECTION PINOCHET WOULD GET 75-80 PERCENT OF THE VOTE. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED IMPROVEMENTS ON THE INTERNAL SECURITY AND ECONOMIC FRONTS. HE ADMITTED THAT THE GOC WAS NOT LIVING UP TO THE LETTER OF THE MAY 1 LAW ON NATIONAL SECURITY BUT SAID THAT MERE PASSAGE OF THE LAW WAS AN INDICATION OF IMPROVED INTERNAL SECURITY.

8. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH WILLOUGHBY APPEARS TO BE IN GOOD HEALTH, HE IS PREOCCUPIED WITH HIS MEDICAL PROBLEMS, WHICH HE CHARACTERIZES AS MOST SERIOUS. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT HIS HEALTH WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH HIS ABILITY TO CONTINUE IN HIS JOB.  
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